



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor

Marc Miller, Director

August 24, 2009

Mr. Henry M. Rahe
8952 Levee Road
Valmeyer, IL 62295

Mr. Ron Polka
Monroe County Highway Department
100 S. Main Street, Room 16
Waterloo, IL 62298-1322

Re: Tarathon Oaks Farm Access Road, Waterloo
Endangered Species Consultation Program
Project Number: 0803779
County: Monroe

Dear Mr. Rahe and Mr. Polka:

This letter concerns the above-referenced project submitted for consultation in accordance with the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* and the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act*. As stated previously, the protected resources in the vicinity of this project include Rahe's Woods Illinois Natural Area Inventory (INAI) Site, Frog Karst System INAI Site, the State and Federal-listed Illinois Cave Amphipod, *Gammarus acherondytes*, and the State-listed threatened Eastern Narrowmouth Toad, *Gastrophryne carolinensis*.

The Department has completed its review of the information submitted thus far and has determined that the action is likely to have an adverse impact on the protected resources. To minimize these impacts, the Department recommends that the following measures be implemented by the developer and incorporated in the County's project authorization.

1. Eastern Narrowmouth Toad. The Department surveyed within the sinkhole area for this species on July 24, 2008 to determine whether or not this species exists in the vicinity of the access road. We did not see evidence of this species within the sinkhole area, but we may have been about a week too late in the season to hear them calling. Since there was not standing water at that time, we were not able to seine for tadpoles either. The Department recommends further biological survey efforts be conducted next June and July.
2. Karst Site Evaluation. The Department did not find an outlet for the sinkhole which was needed to verify where water from this sinkhole flows. Dye-tracing is still recommended to determine whether or not water from this sinkhole travels south into the Pautler Annbriar Karst system or the Frog Karst INAI system. Recharge delineations within Monroe County have been recently completed which may shed

light on this – the Department recommends you contact Ozark Underground Laboratories to verify whether or not filling this sinkhole, or changing flow into, and from, this sinkhole, will impact downstream systems.

3. Stormwater Management. It appears that stormwater drainage issues at this site have not been adequately addressed yet. Clarification on the direction of pre- and post-construction stormwater volumes and release rates should be provided as well as Best Management Practices to be incorporated which will avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential impacts to protected resources.

4. The project description for the current consultation states that this is an access road for farm operations, thus this consultation review only covers this proposed action. If the scope of this project changes, then the project will need to be resubmitted for consultation review.

5. No trash, garbage, refuse, or any hazardous materials (flammable, corrosive, irritant, reactive, or toxic) may be placed or spilled on-site, or within the sinkhole. If an accidental spill does occur, the Department and IEMA should be immediately notified.

Consultation on the part of the Department is terminated. In accordance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h), the County must notify the Department of its decision regarding these recommendations, whether they will:

- Allow the action to proceed as originally proposed;
- Require the action to be modified per Department recommendations (please specify measures, if not all will be required); or
- Forgo the action.

This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered, the proposed action is modified, or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the project has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary.

The natural resource review reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of the project submittal, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are encountered during the project's implementation, you must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations. Also, note that termination does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement of the proposed action.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me a call at the number below.

Cordially,

Kathi Davis
Impact Assessment Section
Division of Ecosystems and Environment
Office of Realty and Environmental Planning
217-557-0483

Enclosure

Cc: Kristen Lundh, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Debbie Newman, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
Marty Kemper, IDNR/Region IV/Natural Heritage
Courtney Rehmer, Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District